

make a user-friendly database available to seniors across the country. For the first time, seniors will be able to comparison shop for their prescription drugs, just like they do for cruises, shoes and other necessities.

Also, since that time, we have seen the growth of Health Savings Accounts that were part of that legislation. There are some interesting figures about Health Savings Accounts. Almost half of the people signing up for Health Savings Accounts earn under \$50,000 a year, hardly a program that just benefits the rich, but we hear that over and over again.

Fifty-six percent of the people that have signed up for Health Savings Accounts are under 40 years of age. Sixty-two percent are families, as opposed to just individuals, and there are comparable benefits after the deductibles are met.

The most important thing, though, Mr. Speaker, is this is money that patients own and they control. It is their accounts, not the government's.

HELPING HARD-PRESSED FAMILIES IS CRITICAL

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, helping hard-pressed families is a valuable activity here on the floor of the House. We have an opportunity to do it today. Yet my Republican friends are advancing a fundamentally flawed proposal.

For two families each with three children, one making minimum wage, the other over \$300,000 a year, my Republican friends propose a new benefit for the family that makes over \$300,000. They will however slam the door on the family at minimum wage earning \$10,300; no benefit for them.

I keep hoping my Republican friends will show the same compassion for the people who need our help the most as they shower new benefits on those who need our help the least.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). Pursuant to House Resolution 648 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4200.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4200) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes,

with Mr. LAHOOD (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, May 19, 2004, a request for a recorded vote on Amendment No. 14 printed in House Report 108-499, offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) had been postponed.

Pursuant to the order of the House of that day, the amendments numbered 29, 30, 31 and 32 are in order as though printed in the report and Amendment No. 13 is modified.

It is now in order to consider Amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 108-499.

It is now in order to consider Amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 108-499.

REQUEST TO INCLUDE MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF AMENDMENT

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the name of the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) be added as a cosponsor of the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. While a Member may not designate a co-officer of an amendment, the RECORD will reflect his request.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. KENNEDY OF MINNESOTA

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 8 offered by Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota:

Strike section 2821 (page 514, beginning line 19) and insert the following new section:

SEC. 2821. PREPARATION OF REPORTS AS PART OF 2005 BASE CLOSURE ROUND REGARDING FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 2912 of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note), as added by section 3001 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-107; 115 Stat. 1342), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) INFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED REPORTS.—

“(1) REQUIRED REPORTS.—The Secretary shall prepare the following reports related to infrastructure requirements for the Armed Forces:

“(A) A report containing the Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy of the Department of Defense, including the location of long-term overseas installations, installations to be used for rotational purposes, and forward operating locations, anticipated rotational plans and policies, and domestic and overseas infrastructure requirements associated with the strategy.

“(B) A report describing the anticipated infrastructure requirements associated with the probable end-strength levels and major military force units (including land force divisions, carrier and other major combatant vessels, air wings, and other comparable units) for each of the Armed Forces resulting from force transformation.

“(C) A report describing the anticipated infrastructure requirements related to expected changes in the active component

versus reserve component personnel mix of the Armed Forces.

“(D) A report describing the anticipated infrastructure requirements associated with the so-called ‘10-30-30 objective’ of the Secretary to ensure that military forces are capable of deployment overseas within 10 days in sufficient strength to defeat an enemy within 30 days and be ready for redeployment within 30 days after the end of combat operations.

“(E) A report containing the results of a complete reassessment of the infrastructure necessary to support the force structure described in the force-structure plan prepared under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) and describing any resulting excess infrastructure and infrastructure capacity, which were previously required by paragraph (2) of such subsection. The reassessment shall be based on actual infrastructure, facility, and space requirements for the Armed Forces rather than a comparative study between 1989 and 2003.

“(F) A report describing the anticipated infrastructure requirements associated with the assessment prepared by the Secretary pursuant to section 2822 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136; 117 Stat. 1726), in which Congress required the Secretary to assess the probable threats to national security and determine the potential, prudent, surge requirements for the Armed Forces and military installations to meet those threats.

“(2) TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit the reports required by paragraph (1) to the congressional defense committees at the same time as the Secretary transmits the recommendations for the closure or realignment of military installations under section 2914(a).”.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 648, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the amendment I am offering with my friend, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER). The Kennedy-Snyder amendment repeals the 2-year BRAC delay that was included in the Defense Authorization Act reported out by the committee.

Our amendment also requires DOD to report to Congress on our overseas basing posture and other issues raised by the committee in March of 2005 when DOD transmits its base closure and realignment recommendations to the BRAC Commission.

Under the terms of our amendment, Congress would have 6 months to consider the report before a potential vote to disapprove the recommendations of the BRAC Commission. This would give the House ample time to hold hearings and decide if DOD paid attention to such important issues as our overseas basing structure. Furthermore, estimates show that the 2-year delay of BRAC could waste as much as \$16 billion in lost savings.

Mr. Chairman, this is money that would be better used to modernize our weapons systems and improve the quality of life for our service men and women.